



# Drought Information Statement for West Central & Southwest Florida

Valid September 21, 2023

Issued By: WFO Tampa Bay

Contact Information: [sr-tbw.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-tbw.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated by Sep 30, 2023 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/tbw/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Florida

- No significant changes this week.
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): along the coast from southwest Hillsborough county south through Manatee county into central Sarasota county.
  - D2 (Severe Drought): bounded the D3 area across the southern half of Pinellas, southwestern Hillsborough, inland portions of Manatee and Sarasota counties
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): extends from southwest Pasco county to interior Manatee and Sarasota counties, south near the coast of Charlotte and Lee counties
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): bounded the D1 area and extended into much of Charlotte and Lee counties.

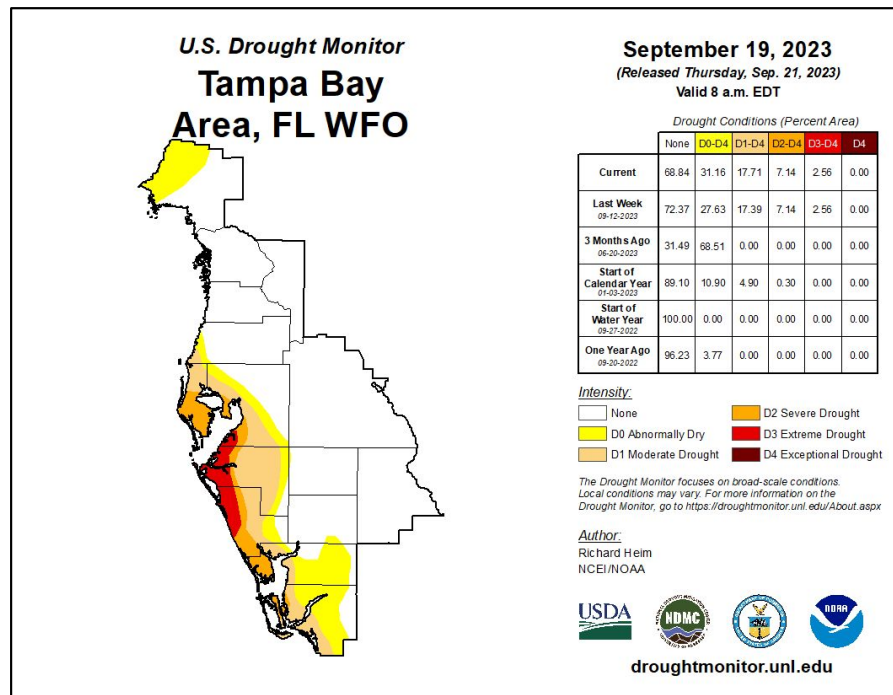


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid September 19th





# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Florida

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - There has been some improvement in the drought conditions (green areas on map to the right) over the last few weeks, but areas near the coast of Manatee and Sarasota county are continuing to see their driest start to any year since records began.

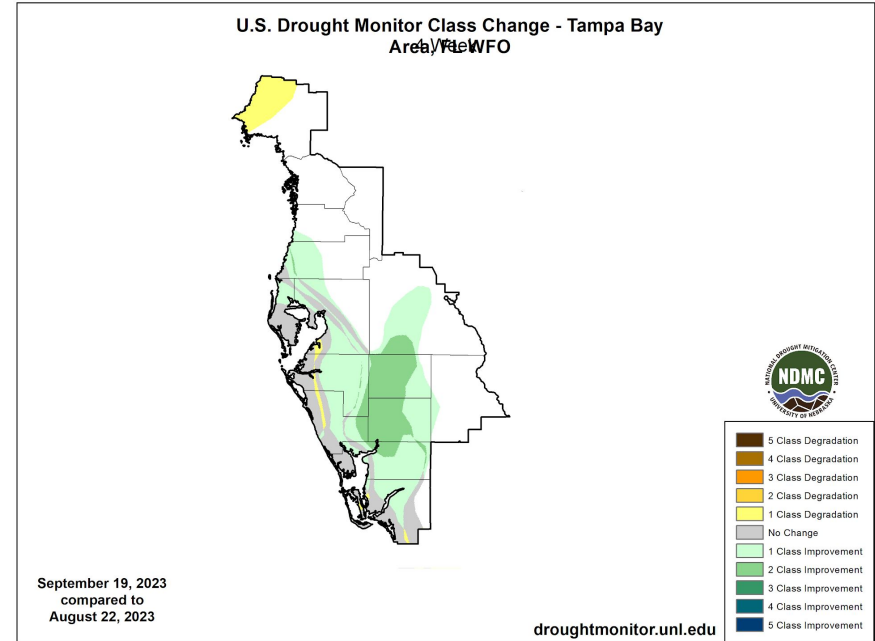


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid September 19th





# Precipitation

## Table of Accumulated Rainfall (inches) for Select Locations - January 1 to September 20, 2023

The following table gives the rainfall from January 1, 2023 to September 20, 2023:

Station	Site Id	Observed Rainfall	30 Yr Normal	Dep fm Normal	Percent of Normal
Tampa Area	TPA:	27.52	41.55	-14.03	66%
St Pete/Clearwater	PIE:	*24.99	44.96	-19.97	56%
St Petersburg Area	SPG:	26.98	39.07	-12.09	69%
<b>NWS Ruskin</b>	<b>TBW:</b>	<b>21.56</b>	<b>43.89</b>	<b>-22.33</b>	<b>49%</b>
Winter Haven Area	GIF:	39.92	38.44	+1.48	104%
<b>Sarasota-Bradenton Area</b>	<b>SRQ:</b>	<b>22.13</b>	<b>40.61</b>	<b>-18.48</b>	<b>54%</b>
Fort Myers/Page Field	FMY:	**34.79	48.24	-13.45	72%
Fort Myers/SW Intl Apt	RSW:	31.24	44.51	-13.27	70%
Chiefland 5 SE	CHIF1:	40.29	46.61	-6.32	86%
Plant City	PLCF1:	43.42	47.20	-3.78	92%
Lakeland	LLDF1:	41.23	47.14	-5.91	87%
Bradenton 5 ESE	BRAF1:	37.88	47.10	-9.22	80%
<b>Venice</b>	<b>VNCF1:</b>	<b>21.17</b>	<b>42.10</b>	<b>-20.93</b>	<b>50%</b>
Archbold Bio Stn	ACHF1:	47.01	44.99	+2.02	104%

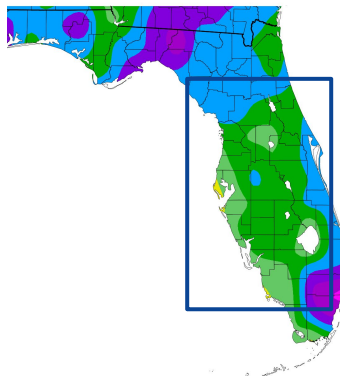
\*Rainfall missing on August 20, 2023. Radar estimate of 0.50 inches included in this total

\*\*Rainfall missing on June 2, 2023. Radar estimate of 1.90 inches included in this total

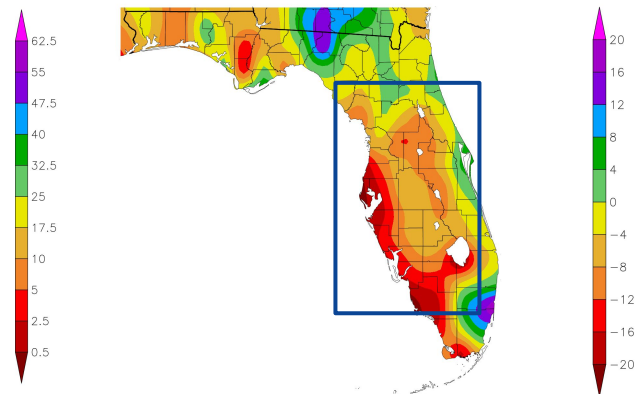
The following table gives the rainfall from January 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023:

Station	Site Id	Observed Rainfall	30 Yr Normal	Dep fm Normal	Percent of Normal
St Leo	STLF1:	34.69	39.38	-4.69	88%
Bartow	BARF1:	36.04	38.57	-2.53	93%
Mountain Lake	LWLF1:	31.35	38.36	-7.01	82%
Myakka River St Pk	MKCF1:	38.78	44.90	-6.12	86%
Wauchula 2 N	WAUF1:	25.21	38.50	-13.29	65%
Desoto City 8 SW	DSOF1:	40.15	37.87	+2.28	106%

Precipitation (in)  
1/1/2023 - 9/19/2023



Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
1/1/2023 - 9/19/2023



**NWS Ruskin, Sarasota-Bradenton Area and Venice are having their Driest Year-to-Date!**

Image Captions:

Left - Precipitation Amount for Florida

Right - Departure from Normal Precipitation for Florida

Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.

Data for 2023 ending September 20, 2023



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Atmospheric Administration  
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# Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Hydrologic Impacts

- As expected, due to the dry conditions in the wake of Idalia combined with antecedent conditions prior to Idalia, several main stem rivers are running in the lowest 30th percentile with the remaining near or above climatological normal. Locally heavy rain in a few basins over the past couple of days has allowed rivers over the interior to rise with lower portions of the Peace river in minor flood.

## Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

## Mitigation Actions

- Water conservation techniques are strongly encouraged in drought areas. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information. Local water restriction ordinances may be in place.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Rivers have generally held steady during the past week with a few rivers/streams running in the lowest 30th percentile. The remainder of the rivers and streams across west central and southwest Florida are running near to above climatic normals with southern portions of the Peace river in minor flood.

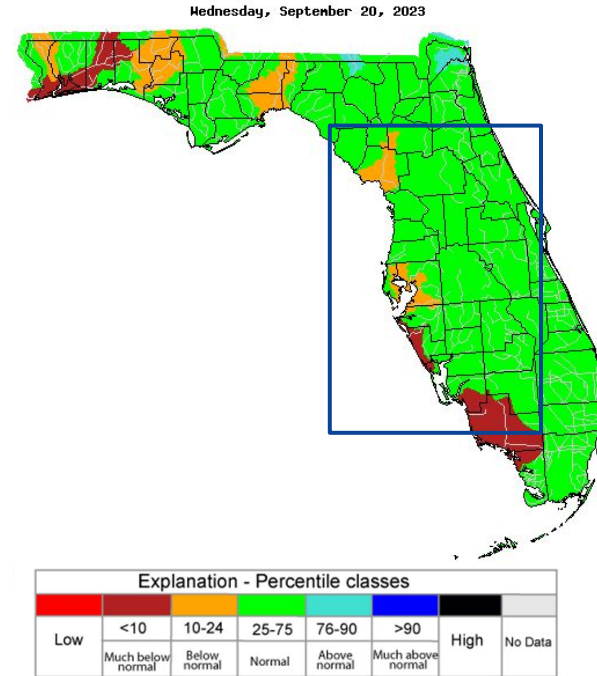


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid September 20, 2023



# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Relatively dry conditions are expected over the weekend with the best chance of rain over southwest Florida. Scattered mainly afternoon showers and thunderstorms are expected next week on a daily basis, again with the best chance of rain over southwest Florida. Overall, rainfall totals for the next seven days are expected to run below climatological normal.

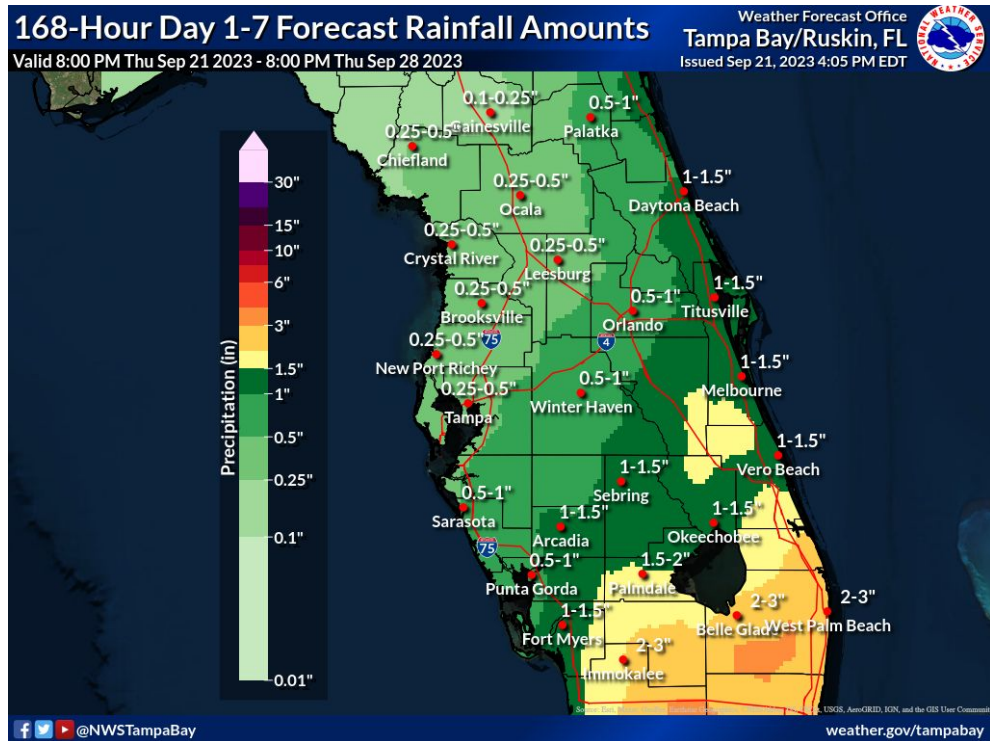


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid 8 AM EDT Thursday September 21 to 8 AM EDT Thursday September 28





# Long-Range Monthly Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Warmer than normal temperatures are favored during the month of October, while equal chances of above, below, and near normal precipitation is outlooked for the Florida peninsula.

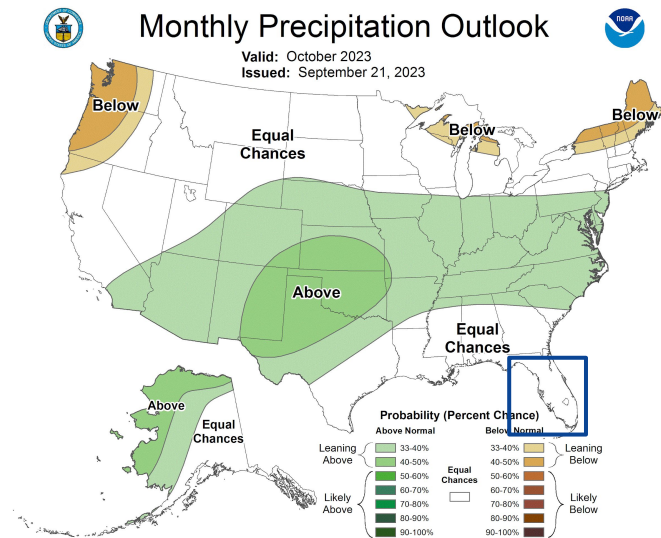
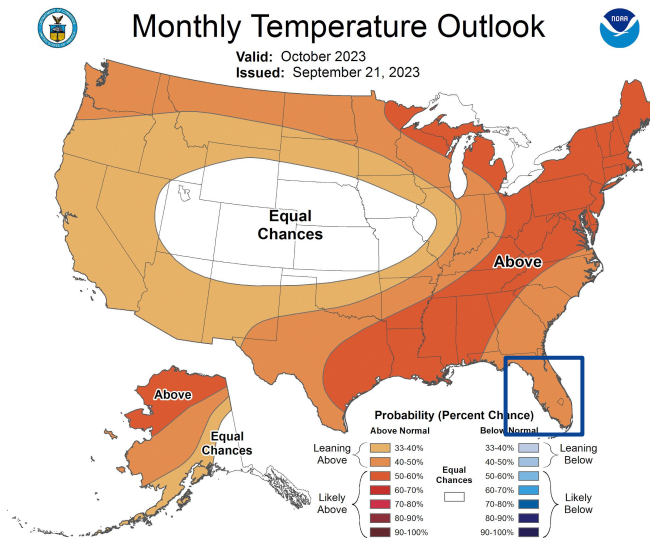


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid October 2023



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# Long-Range Seasonal Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Warmer than normal temperatures are favored during the three month period of September through November while precipitation is leaning toward above normal for the Florida peninsula.

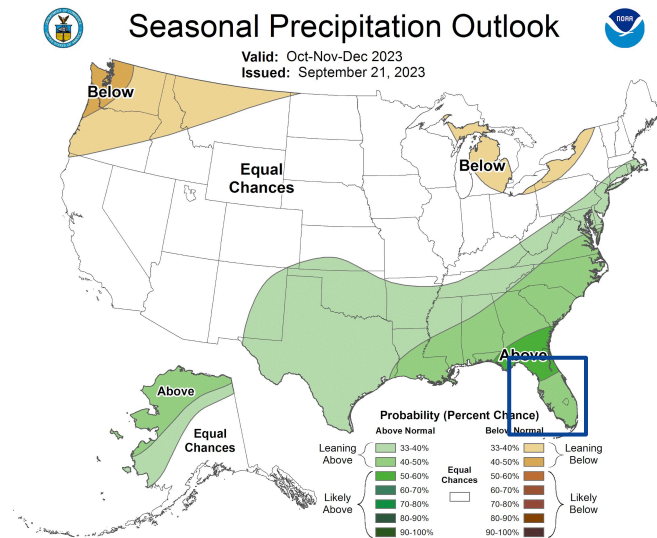
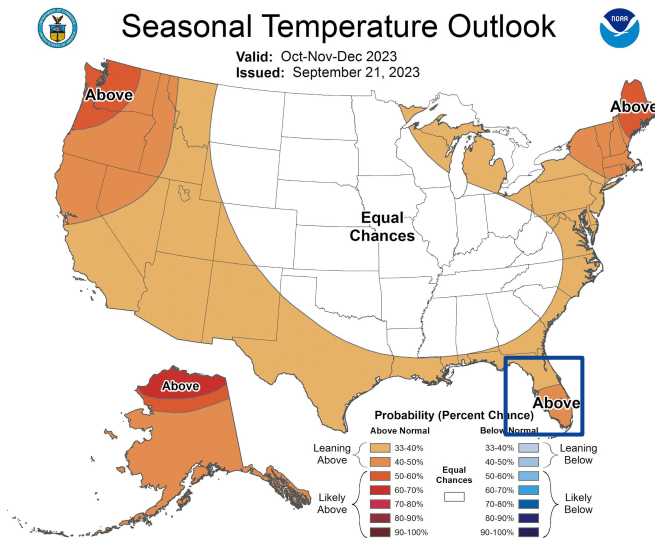


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook.](#)

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.](#)

Valid October - December 2023



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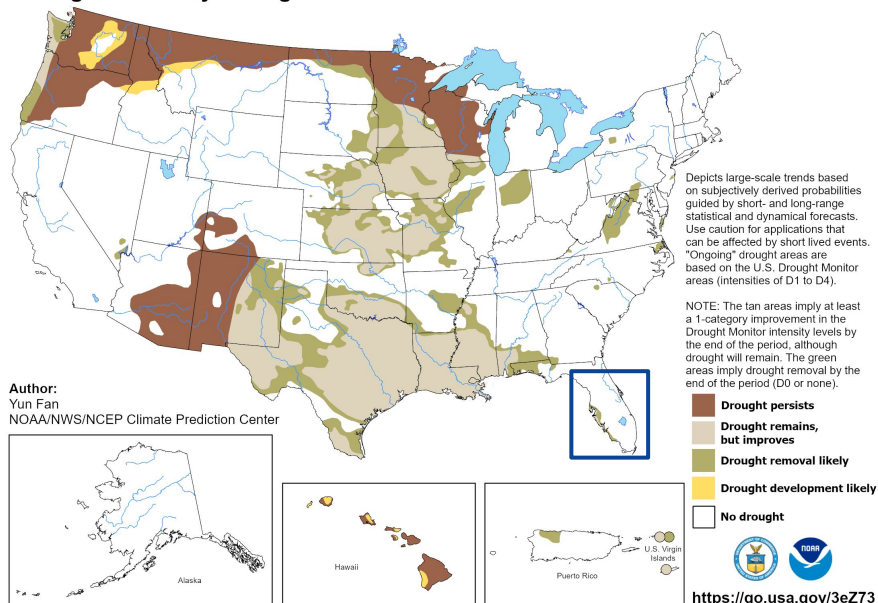
# Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Some improvement in the drought conditions is expected as we move through Autumn.

## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for September 21 - December 31, 2023  
Released September 21, 2023



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)  
[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook  
Released September 21, 2023 valid for September 21 - December 31, 2023



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